that the runway has to be bigger. But that land does not belong to any private party. It does not belong to any State. I think, it belongs to the Navy which comes under Defence. So, we had, my predecessor had, a meeting with the Defence Ministry officials. I am also going to have another round of meetings with the Defence Ministry so that we might come to some conclusion.

*2. [*The questioners (Shri Ram Jethmalani and Dr. Jinendra Kumar Jain) were absent. For answer vide col..... infra*]

दूरदर्शन पर मैट्रो चैनल

*3. **डा. बापू कालदाते** : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने 26 जनवरी, 1993 से चार महानगरों में मैट्रो-चैनल शुरू कर दिया है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार इन चैनल के कार्यक्रमों को बढ़ाकर एक पृथक राष्ट्रीय चैनल बनाने का विचार रखती है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir. Doordarshan have only introduced a metro hour from 8.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. on the existing metro channel at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras for allotment of time slots to private parties.

(b) There is at present no proposal to convert the existing metro channels of Doordarshan into a separate national channel.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) On account of constraints of resources.

डा. बापू कालदते : सभापति जी, सरकार ने एक एयर टाइम अथोरिटी नियुक्त की जिसके अध्यक्ष देवधर हैं। उन्होंने यह कहा था कि अगस्त से मैट्रो के निजीकरण के बारे में क्रियान्वयन करेंगे। बीच में यह आपका आ गया। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि देवधर कमेटी की रिकमेंडेशन या उनका फार्मूला क्या है ? यह जो एक घंटे वाला शरू हो गया है मैट्रो-चैनल पर और जिसको निजी कम्पनीज को या प्राइवेट पार्टीज को देने की बात चल रही है क्या यह उसी फार्मूले का एक पार्ट है या अलग से आई एंड बी मिनिस्टरी ने देवधर कमेटी के फार्मूले को बाज में रखकर अपनी ओर से एक्सपेरीमेंटल बेसेज पर इसको शुरू किया है ? मैं यह जानकारी चाहता हूं कि देवधर कमेटी का फार्मूला क्या है और इसको कब से शुरू करने की बात है और जो शुरू किया हुआ है वह इससे अलग है या इसी का एक हिस्सा है ?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, it is not an Air Time Authority, it is an Air Time Committee and it is a document which has been given by the Deodhar Committee. It is not a report as such. It is under examination. There are certain areas which require clarifications. We have sought the clarifications and when the reply comes, we will be in a position to give the recommendations because still it is in the form of a document. As for the second part of the question, this Metro Hour is not part of their formulation. It is only to assess the infrastructure and market response before the licencees are selected by the Air Time Committee.

डा. बापू कालदते : आप हमें यह बताइये कि

What is the relation between this Committee and the decisions taken by the Ministry? Is there any relation between these two? Then, I will ask the second supplementary.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, the Air Time Committee has given a document which we are studying. We received it on the 29th of January. On the 14th of January a decision was taken to try out, assess our infrastructure for the Metro Hour in the four cities where there is a second channel. We are trying it out, assessing the technicalities as well as the infrastructure and the market response. The two have nothing in common. But the Deodhar recommendations can benefit when we try out these facilities, to find out what the grey areas are, where the pit-falls are and if there are any mistakes.

डा. बापू कालदाते : मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि आपने जवाब में कहा है कि हम राष्ट्रीय चैनल की बात आज नहीं कर सकते हैं क्योंकि धन की उपलब्धि नहीं है। लेकिन मैं आपका ध्यान जरूर इस बात पर खींचना चाहता हूं कि आज जो जी, स्टार और वी.वी.सी. के मामले आये हैं और इनसे जो प्रोग्राम हो रहे हैं इसका काफी गहरा असर हो रहा है और आम तौर पर यह हो रहा है कि अगर हमारे पास दूसरा चैनल नहीं होगा तो शायद आपके दूरदर्शन की जो कार्यवाहियां देखना चाहते हैं उनको देखना लोग कम कर रहे हैं और इसी के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भी चैनल की आवश्यकता क्या सरकार मानती है, समझती है या नहीं? अगर समझती है और मानती है तो हम यह भी जानते हैं कि कुछ बार यह कहा गया कि जब दूसरा उपग्रह अंतरिक्ष में जाएगा तब शायद दूसरा चैनल, नेशनल चैनल शुरू करना संभव हो सकता है, इसलिए इस दिशा में सरकार की सोच क्या है और इस दिशा में कदम उठाने के लिए सरकार क्या करना चाहती है?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, it is this very question which prompted the Government to set up an inter-Ministerial Committee under Mr. K. A. Vardhan, Additional Secretary, which gave its recommendations. And a view emerged that to meet the challenges posed by satellitebased foreign television broadcasts, especially from the neighbours, and as a prelude to offering the broadcasting, telecasting rights to public corporations, time-slots on the metro channels of Doordarshan, that is, in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, be offered to suitable licensees. As a consequence of this, the Deodhar Committee was appointed and it has given a document which we are studying, which is under examination. There are certain grey areas and we have asked for clarifications. As far as the second national channel is concerned, we have had a dialogue with the Planning Commission and it is the constraint of resources which is the main bottleneck because the resources required for a second channel will be much more than the entire allocation for the Plan. Therefore, it is still under examination. They have given some observations. We are examining them in the Ministry.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, recently, Doordarshan has increased the time of national programmes with the result that the programmes in local languages have been reduced considerably. For example, in Madras, the national programme has gobbled up the important prime time given to Tamil programmes which means that the national programme has got a connotation. They are all in Hindi. So Hindi programmes have been increased at the cost of Tamil programmes. It has created a wave of protest in Tamil Nadu. As the hon. Minister may be aware, in the Official Language policy, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry are given special positions, are being treated under special provisions. For example, in the Official Language Bill, rules have been framed. The first rule says that Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry will be exempted. So, may I ask the hon. Minister to respect the sentiments and wishes of the people of Tamil Nadu, because they consider it as imposition of Hindi by Doordarshan, and restore the *status quo ante*? Let him not defend the present position because it will flare up fires of agitation. Therefore, may I request the hon. Minis-

ter to reconsider the position and restore the *status quo ante*? Will he do it?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, the hon. Member, Mr. Maran knows very well that I always respect his sentiment in relation to the people of Tamil Nadu. We have received information about the misgivings as a result of the new timings. We are examining it. I can assure him that we will give full respect to the sentments of not only the people of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry but of all the segments, in all corners of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, I do not want to ask any question on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

श्रीमती वीना वर्मा : मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूं कि मैट्रो-चैनल पर प्राइवेट निर्माताओं को समय आवंटित करने की योजना मुख्य तौर पर मनोरंजक कार्यक्रमों को अधिक महत्व देने की नीयत से तैयार की गयी है और महानगरों में मैट्रो-चैनल की स्थापना युवा वर्ग तथा विशेष क्षेत्रीय जरूरतों को पूरा करने की उद्देश्य से की गयी थी। लेकिन जी०टी०वी० और स्टार टेलिविजन के बढ़ते हुए आक्रमणों को देखते हुए उनकी जगह पर मनोरंजन को ज्यादा महत्व देने के लिये प्राइवेट निर्माताओं को ज्यादा समय दिया जा रहा है। लेकिन निर्माता पूर्व स्वीकृति के बिना ही कार्यक्रम प्रसारित करेंगे। दरअसल दूरदर्शन के संबंध में इस सवाल पर विचार जरूरी है कि मनोरंजन क्या है ? विदेशी टी०वी० की नकल करके हम दूरदर्शन पर जो फूहड़ कार्यक्रम दिखा रहे हैं, मनोरंजन के नाम पर, तो इसे मनोरंजन माना जाय या न माना जाय? स्टार टेलीविजन और केबल टेलीविजन के मुकाबले के नाम पर अप-संस्कृति फैलाने में दूरदर्शन बहुत ज्यादा मदद कर रहा है। तो पहली चीज यह कि क्या हमने कोई दूरदर्शन के लिये मीडिया पालिसी बनायी है ? यदि हां तो वह मीडिया पालिसी क्या है? यदि नहीं तो वह कब तक बनेगी? यह देखा गया है यू.जी.सी. भी इन कार्यक्रमों को अपोज कर रही है ये मनोरंजक कार्यक्रम जो हैं नहीं दिये जाने चाहिये। बुद्धिजीवियों ने भी ऐसे मनोरंजन कार्यक्रम देने का विरोध किया है। तो मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूं कि दूरदर्शन के लिये मनोरंजन क्या है और हमारी संस्कृति पालिसी क्या है, मीडिया नीति क्या है? यदि यह बनायी गयी है तो यह क्या है और नहीं है तो कब तक बनायी जायेगी ?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: The hon. Member is very much aware that in the last week of March, we are going to have a threadbare discussion on the Media policy as such because a number of Members of Parliament on the Consultative Committee had made this demand that we should have a discussion on the Media policy.

As far as Media policy of Doordarshan is concerned, there are guidelines, there were certain pronouncements in 1954 and thereafter in 1958. Members are not satisfied and they demanded that it should be brought up to the relevant times. Therefore, we are going to have a threadbate discussion on the Media policy.

As far as the entertainment and cultural programmes are concerned, Doordarshan has professional people in it and they select, as far as the entertainment and cultural programmes are concerned, and there are certain guidelines for that and we will adhere to those parameters and guidelines. But there is always a room for improvement and the hon. Member is very active Member of our Consultative Committee. She has given some very constructive suggestions in the last meeting and we are examining as to how we can implement them. We will come back.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, the original question by Shri Bapu Kaldate is very relevant. I would like to know

from the Minister who has set up this Air Time Authority or Air Time Committee. Is it under the Ministry? If so, how are they giving parallel statements as if the Ministry has no powers? There is confusion in the public mind because of the onslaught of Star TV. Doordarshan is under pressure. I do not think we should create further confusion. The Ministry should take a clear-cut stand. If you think the Air Time Committee is of no use, then please dissolve it. But if it is there, then there is no use jumping the gun and giving one hour for metro channel programmes under the guise that you want to study the market response. The Committee gives parallel statements. You have invited eminent people to serve on the Committee. You are undermining the Committee which was set up by you or was it set up by some other authority? Please clear the confusion and tell us what the Government policy is with regard to metro channel. Are you going to wait for the report and if the report has already been given, by when will you study it and come to some conclusion? What is the Government's mind? That is what we want to know.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, there is no confusion whatsoever. The hon. Member, Shri Kamal Morarka's thinking is precise and clear. But I do not know how this confusion has got into his mind. The Air Time Committee has stated in its various releases to the press and it is already in the news that it will come into operation from 15th August. They have given us a document. It is not a report or a recommendation as such. They have given us a document and we are studying it, as I mentioned earlier. There are certain grey areas and the Government needs some clarifications. It was set up by the Ministry. The Government is conscious of the fact that there is an onslaught from cable and Satellite TV. It is for this purpose that a second metro channel was started. It will come into operation after the 15th August. The Ministry in its wisdom thought that it should not lose eight month time and shoud assess the infrastructure capabilities and the marketing capabilities and see whether there are any grey areas. This will be helpful when the deodhar recommendation comes into operation. So there is no confusion whatsoever.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Please protect me. The Minister says that Air Time Committee was set up by the Ministry. At the same time he says that the Committee in its various hand-outs to the press has said that it will come into operation from 15th August. The Committee has been set up by the Ministry. It is nobody to tell the press or the public. It can only make recommendations to you. The confusion is created because it is making statements to the press as if it is a parallel authority to that of the Ministry. Please set it at rest. Ask them not to issue press releases. They can only make recommendations to you. You are the authority or so I presume.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: On the one hand he says they are eminent people and I agree with him. But how can I prevent them from going to the press or the press getting an impression... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: By eminent people it does not mean that they can make parallel statement.

DR. BAPU KALDATE: How can a Minister say like this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No Minister can prevent the public from going to the press.

DR. BAPU KALDATE: The Committee has been appointed by the Government and it has to represent them.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: The Committee cannot decide.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, will you sit down? *(Interruptions)* NQ. No. 4 ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, I would like to clarify what Mr. Bapu Kaldate said. This Committee by its very nature has to meet people; otherwise, how does

is interact? They have been meeting various people including the press and I cannot prevent them from interacting with people before they formulate their proposals. Somehow press reports have come. The Ministry did not go to the press at all.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: It is not an autonomous body.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 4

Action against striking pilots of IA

*4. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: †

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken against the pilots of Indian Airlines, individually or collectively who recently went on strike;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and at what stage such action was taken; and

(c) what has been the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) In view of the withdrawal of the strike by Indian Commercial Pilots' Association, it has been decided by the management not to pursue the chargesheets issued to the pilots.

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: Sir, the Government is very very liberal towards the pilots. If the Government was so much liberal towards the pilots, then what was the necessity for making so much of a hue and cry which is creating problems? Sir, there was a loss of Rs. 150 crores on account of the strike by the pilots. Not only has the Indian Airlines incurred so much loss, but also the hotel industry and the tourism industry have suffered a great loss. Why did the Government not fix the responsibility on anybody, whether it is the management or the pilots? Sir, it is the duty of every Government to fix responsibility and identify the persons who are responsible... *(Interruptions)*...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Including the Minister... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: Yes, including the Minister also. The Government should fix the responsibility and identify the persons.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Mira Das.

—i

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

निजी क्षेत्र में बैंकों का स्थापित किया जाना

* 2. श्री राम जेठमलानी :
डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने देश में निजी क्षेत्र में बैंक स्थापित किए जाने को प्रोत्साहन देने के संबंध में निर्णय ले लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस क्षेत्र में बैंकों की स्थापना के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या-क्या सुविधाएं प्रदान की जानी हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार को निजी क्षेत्र में बैंक स्थापित करने के लिए कोई आवेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० अबरार अहमद) : (क) और